THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PUR ANDES WARI): (a) to (d) State-wise allocations are not made under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Projects administered by the Ministry. Grants are, however, released to the State Governments keeping in view the proposals received, availability of resources and progress of utilization of funds earlier released under each scheme. It is premature to assess the extent of increase or decrease in the quantum of grants released/ likely to be released in respect of various proposals under different schemes during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

**Problems in higher and primary education**

2196. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently discussed the problems prevalent in higher and primary education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are highlighting the need to bring the country's primary and higher education to international standards;

(d) if so, the parameters to be adopted for this purpose;

(e) whether Government had drawn a road map for higher education; and

(f) if so, the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Conference of the State Education Ministers was held on Tenth and Eleventh April, 2007. The Conference urged that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) continue to be implemented with the vigour and commitment and with fullest attention to issues of equity, improvement of learning outcomes, focused programmes for improving language and mathematics skills and tracking student as well as teacher attendance. In the field of Higher Education, the Conference recommended that the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of higher education be raised from the present 10% to at least 15% and also that State Governments be encouraged to take maximum possible advantage of schemes of the UGC.

(c) and (d) The Government is continuously committed to the task of maintaining high quality standards at all levels of education.

(e) and (f) Several steps are foreseen in the Eleventh Plan period in the field of Higher Education including the establishment of 30 new Central Universities of which 16 will be in those States which do not have a Central University at present. The roadmap envisages 8 additional UTs, 7 additional IIMs, 20 additional IIITs, 20 additional NITs and 3 additional IISERs.